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## **Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Steering Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

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#### **Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund**

The Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund (MGPIF) was established to mitigate the socio-economic impacts resulting from the development activity associated with the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP). Funding is being made available on a regional basis to five regions in the NWT. Prior to the release of funds under the MGPIF, there is a need for the regional Aboriginal organizations to work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the public to develop regional investment plans (RIP) and establish regional decision making structures. These plans and structures need to be in place so that program and project decisions are consistent with the overall intent of the MGPIF.

#### **Dehcho Regional Investment Plan**

Regional investment planning is critical to the success of the MGPIF and to the accountability of the Fund. When completed, the Dehcho RIP should have - at a minimum - the following five components:

- 1) analysis of the current situation (environmental scan – including baseline information);
- 2) setting of strategic direction and priorities through an appropriately inclusive consultation process;
- 3) development of an action plan (including short and long term goals and progress/performance indicators);
- 4) development of a plan for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of results and progress achieved; and
- 5) a budget that outlines both operational and project costs for the five-year period.

A Table of Contents for the Plans is available from INAC.

Additionally, regional Aboriginal organizations will need to continue to work with the INAC Pipeline Readiness Office and the GNWT to determine how they will develop their regional decision-making processes and structures as well as accountability mechanisms.

Fund administration at the regional level will be comprised of two main components: 1) a regional decision making body; and 2) the administrative/project management component. The regional decision making body will include majority regional Aboriginal representation in addition to GNWT representation. The regional decision making body will set regional priorities, approve RIPs, approve projects, and review and approve an annual report to be forwarded to the Territorial Corporation.

## **Steering Committee**

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to lead the development of the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan. The Steering Committee will:

- advise on the Phase 1 Draft Regional Investment Plan;
- provide direction on Phase 2 Regional Investment Plan development;
- oversee completion of Phase 2 of the Regional Investment Plan; and
- advise and recommend a structure for a formal regional decision making body that will oversee the management and implementation of the MGPIF fund after Plan approval.

### ***Responsibilities***

Steering committee members will represent the interests of the Dehcho Region.

Steering committee members will commit the time necessary to prepare for and actively participate in Steering Committee meetings and lead the development of the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan.

The Steering Committee will work together in a spirit of goodwill and mutual respect to develop and review the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan.

The Steering Committee will follow an agreed to work schedule.

In accordance with the attached Dehcho First Nations (DFN) motion, the Steering Committee will operate at arms-length from the DFN although the Steering Committee will benefit from the logistical and administrative support of the DFN.

The Steering Committee will report to the leadership of the Dehcho First Nations from time to time.

## **Composition**

The Steering Committee will be a representative group of three to seven regional residents knowledgeable about social and economic issues, programs and socio-economic needs in the Dehcho region. The Steering Committee will also include representation from the Government of the NWT.

## **Decision Making and Consensus**

Decision making will be by consensus. Voting will not serve the purpose of the Steering Committee.

## **Longevity**

The Steering Committee will function until such time as a formal regional decision-making body is in place for the management and administration of MGPIF program funding.

## **Partners**

Dehcho First Nations:

- is the administrative body managing the development of the Dehcho RIP; and
- receives RIP funding through INAC for RIPlan development.

Communities/ Community Organizations

- Will provide input to the Steering Committee on the design and drafts of the RIP; and
- Will serve as a resource to the Steering Committee.

INAC

- Provides a set amount of funding for the development of the Dehcho RIP;
- Provides assistance of staff and experts in the development of the RIP;
- Provides background information on the purposes of the MGPIF and the RIP; and
- May participate as necessary at Steering Committee meetings.

GNWT

- Provides assistance of staff and experts in the development of the RIP;
- Identifies a GNWT representative to sit on the Steering Committee;
- Provides background information on social and economic issues, data and programming.

## **Timeline**

Project activities will be scheduled at the direction of the Steering Committee. Key dates include:

- November 22-23,2007                      Dehcho Steering Committee Meeting and Orientation
- December 4-5, 2007                      Steering Committee Meeting -Gap Analysis and Planning Community Work
- January 15,2008 (tentative)      MGPIF Workshop with GNWT
- February 13, 2008 (tentative) Presentation to DFN Leadership Meeting

- February 22, 2008                      Completion of Community Work
- February 26-27, 2008                Steering Committee Review of Community Work
- April 8-9, 2008                        Review Draft Phase 2 RIPlan report
- May 13-14, 2008                      Plan/Review Community Consultations
- June 17-18, 2008                    Steering Committee Review and Wrap-up
- June 23-27, 2008                    Steering Committee Report to Dehcho Assembly
- June 30, 2008                        Finalize Phase 2 Report and Phase 3 Proposal

**Budget**

INAC has allocated \$700,000 for the development of a final Investment Plan that meets with the requirements of the MGPIF Act and draft Table of Contents for the Dehcho Region. Approximately \$156,000 has been spent on Phase One activities leaving \$544,000 remaining.

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